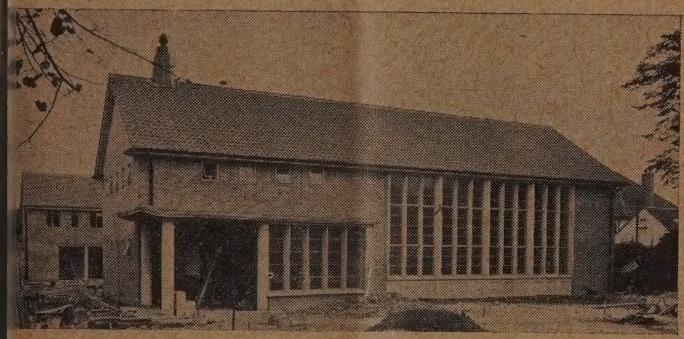
No. 673 Twopence November, 1959

THE UNITARIAN

A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS



UR REBUILT CHURCHES

THE NEW FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, CROYDON

The new Free Christian Church, roydon, opened on October 17th, is uated in the centre of the town ot far from the Town Hall. It xceeds one established in West roydon in 1870. The old church as partly destroyed by enemy tion during the last war, although rt remained in use for services ntil the new church could be built. The Croydon Corporation re-ired the use of the site at West roydon, hence the erection of the w church on the site in Friends oad and a hall for the use of the nday School and other insti-tions.

The foundation-stone of the new ilding was laid on December 13th Mr. Chas. J. Marten, a senior ember of the church. The present ildings are in brick with stone cings. They have been designed Messrs. Evelyn Nye and Partners, architects, of Buckingham Palace Road, and are contemporary in conception without being excessively unconventional. Set back from the road with a lawn in front, the church is linked by a colonnade running along one side of the car park to the hall and warden's flat at the rear.

There is an exceptionally spacious entrance and vestibule to the church, with fluted columns in unpolished mahogany, and a staircase leading to a large committee room and a small gallery at the east end of the church. High windows in "cathedral-glass" constitute practically the whole of the north elevation, and the organ is set in a loft above the vestry and is screened by a grille of modern "open-rectangular" design.

The pulpit, reading desk and table have been specially constructed in unpolished mahogany and present a pleasing appearance against the curved chancel-wall in pale magnolia. All the furnishings

LIBRARY HARRIS MANCHESTER COLLEGE NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM BUILDING

are gifts by members of the congregation, including the upholstered chairs.

Perhaps the most striking features of the interior are three windows in the chancel made of French stained glass and a central symbolic mural in relief beneath them. These represent the teaching of our free faith in respect of the reality and power of the spirit or inner light.

Each of these works of art constitutes a unique contribution to the beauty of the sanctuary and what makes them specially interesting and valuable is the fact that they have both been designed for this church by Mr. Laurence Lee, of the Royal College of Art, who was one of the chief designers of the windows for the new Coventry Cathedral.

The opening ceremony was performed by the President of the General Assembly, the Rev. A. W. Vallance, B.A., in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Croydon and a company of members and visitors that filled the building to capacity. Mr. R. A. Dunk, Chairman of the congregation presided, and among those who brought greetings and took part in the Consecration Service were the Rev. W. Waddington, B.A., B.D., District Minister, the Rev. Roger Thomas, M.A., and the Rev. A. B. Downing, M.A., B.D., former ministers of the congregation. The prayer of consecration was delivered by the present minister, the Rev. J. Percival Chalk. Thanks to all concerned were voiced by Mr. J. S. Low, B.Sc., the hon. secretary, who, however, deserved as much thanks as anyone for his untiring services in connection with this most successful launching of a new and lovely home for our Cause in Croydon.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

THOUGHTS FOR THE FIFTH

Two boys stood at a door. They were visible in the light of the big bonfire. One lit the end of a firework, the other lifted the letter flap and the first one threw the lighted banger through the slot. They disappeared from the door and the light and were quickly lost in the gloom beyond. Seconds later a dull bang was heard and the watchers down the street saw the door flung open. A man stood wreathed in smoke which was curling out into the street and was obviously wishing that he had the perpetrators before him.

Raymond and his father looked at each other.

"That's the kind of thing we try to warn you about," said Father. "It may be great fun to you but it could do a great deal of harm. Many fires are caused by stupid pranks such as that. And what about the old people?"

"I remember one old lady last year," said Raymond. "She was on a stool by the fire in the next street and someone threw a banger under the stool. When it went off, she came off the stool and was badly hurt."

"And very frightened, too, I should imagine," said Father. "There's a lot of thoughtlessness and downright stupidity amongst the fires and fireworks," he went on. "People are intent on enjoying themselves; but they don't stop to think. It may be fun for them but it isn't for others."

"Animals," said Raymond; "I think some people are very cruel to animals. Cats and dogs—and birds. They seem to have no consideration at all."

"Yes," said Father, "a great many cats and dogs are left to roam the streets and be frightened. Some are cruelly dealt with by people who should know better. Never do any of these things yourself, Raymond, don't encourage others to do them and try to prevent them as much as you can. You will still have fun; but others will feel safer and less frightened."

CHURCH-FACTORY

By T. J. Jones

The story of the little boy, in the October issue of the *Unitarian*, asking his mother as they passed a certain Unitarian Church in the centre of Manchester, "What do they make in this factory, Mummy?" is altogether too good to allow to pass without further comment. Architectural implications and imputations apart, it is a general, challenging question which should make us think. What *do* we make, or set out to make, or produce, in our churches?

As for me, I would answer unhesitatingly . . . Men, Characters, Personalities, adequate to the calls of the time, competent to use aright all the "things" that are produced in such abundance in the other factories of our highly technoscientific age. For that matter, this has been the greatest need in all ages, and will remain so until Kingdom Come; and it ought to be the greatest concern of religion, as of every right-thinking philosopher, teacher, seer, at all times.

Jeremiah, long ago, cried "Scour the streets, search the squares, and see if you can find a Man of honest mind and integrity" as the way of salvation. The old Greek philosopher, Diogenes, is reported to have searched the market place of Athens, in broad daylight, with a lighted candle . . . looking for a Man." Nearer our own time, we have these words of Goethe: "No greater good can happen to a town than for several educated men, thinking about what is good and true, to be living in it."

Men (and women, of course) of character . . . that is what we need, more than anything else; and what the churches ought to be producing. It has been put to me recently in another form, by an alert "young" lady of 90, who has found great inspiration in the words:

Four things a Man must learn to do,
If he would make his purpose true:
To think without confusion clearly;
To love his brother-man sincerely;
To work with honest motives purely;
And trust in God and Heaven securely.

If churches are not producing such, they have failed, and can "shut shop."

THE CHANGING FEDERATION

1.—The Passing of S.I.C.

The Systematic Instruction Committee of the Northern Sunday School Federation has gone. The S.I.C., as it was usually known, has done much for Sunday Schools in the north, publishing lesson material, organising Summer Schools, and providing a library of books and film-strips. It was not without a pang that the N.S.S.F. General Committee said farewell.

But let no-one think that the N.S.S.F. has left our northern schools without help in their work.

When a member newly appointed to the S.I.C. also found himself on the Sunday School Work Sub-committee of the R.E.Y.D., he was bewildered — for on each committee, very nearly the same people discussed the same things in exactly the same room at Cross Street Chapel. He asked: "Why have two committees?"

The N.S.S.F. General Committee asked itself this question, and could only answer that to have a secretary of the S.I.C. in the Manchester area was extremely valuable. But to keep a committee merely to have a secretary seemed ridiculous. However, a solution has been found.

The N.S.S.F. has now handed over to the R.E.Y.D. undivided responsibility for helping all our schools, and in order to fill the gap left by the retiring S.I.C. secretary, the R.E.Y.D. will appoint a voluntary secretary to its Sunday School Work Sub-committee who will be

resident in the Manchester region, and who will also be able to relieve the secretary of the R.E.Y.D. of some of his burden.

Once this step was agreed, the N.S.S.F. General Committee passed a sad resolution dissolving its S.I.C. and expressing grateful thanks to all who had served so well on it.

But though a committee dies, another is born; the new Homes Projects Committee will be the subject of a second article.

THE LETTER THAT WAS NOT PRINTED

Editor's note: The letter below follows two letters reprinted in the September "Unitarian" from the "Sunday Times."

Sir, I have no wish to cross swords with Professor Trevor-Roper on purely scholastic points, but only to see that justice is done to the Unitarian contribution to social progress in the nineteenth century. In his review the name "Unitarian" appears only once, and then it is attached, in a most misleading fashion, to the name of Harriet Martineau, whom he instances as an example of trenchant opposition to the Factory Acts.

I find Professor Trevor-Roper's reference in his letter to the Unitarians sometimes rising above their prejudices in the matter of factory legislation, distasteful and unfair. It was not a matter of prejudice but of genuine principle. At the time there was a conflict of principles amongst Unitarians that had not been resolved, a conflict between the claims of independence and the claims of wellbeing; consequently some, like Fielding, supported factory legislation, others did not. Similarly, so far as the Unitarians are concerned, Professor Trevor-Roper's reference to action from self-interest, which is in line with the late Professor Laski's cynicism, is grossly unfair, and, as I indicated in my first letter, the facts tell a quite opposite story.

That Bentham died a free-thinker (at the age of 83) is not inconsistent with his being a Unitarian in theology in his mature and more influential years, for which we have the evidence of his secretary, Sir John Bowring. Bentham's principle of the greatest happiness of the greatest number played an important part in saving England from revolution, and this principle he got from two sources, the book by the Unitarian minister, Dr. Joseph Priestley, "Essay on the First Principles of Government," and from Hutcheson's "English Thought in the Eighteenth Century." Incidentally there was considerable affinity in theological outlook between Hutcheson and Unitarians.

Professor Trevor-Roper is right when he says that revolutions are avoided by political leadership. Between 1760 and 1832 the basis of the government of England was changed, and the first steps were taken to transform the semi-feudal government into a political democracy. The early stages of this movement, according to Professor Trevor-Roper, were due to the work of Anglicans. In point of fact these early stages owed more to Unitarians than to any other group. The outstanding radicals who first appealed to public opinion in favour of the radical reform of Parliament were Unitarians. This fact was recognised by their enemies. When this movement was interrupted by the French Revolution of 1789 and the wars with Napoleon which lasted till 1815, hysteria seized both the Government and the mob, and everywhere Unitarians were the chief victims of the English Terror. The burning of the house and laboratory of the Unitarian minister and scientist, Dr. Joseph Priestley, was typical of the hatred felt for them. When the Reform Bill became law, the Duke of Wellington spoke of it as a victory for the Unitarians!

(Rev.) G. STANLEY WHITBY.

UCKLOW FAMILY-OLIDAY CONFERENCE

By Martin G. West

The conference, the first, I hope many, could well be described as ne of the most successful experi-ents undertaken by the Unitarian aith during the last few years.

At last, the senior group of the enomination has produced its nswer to the highly successful eek-end courses organised by .E.Y.D. and U.Y.P.L. for Young nitarians.

One of the dominating features of ue conference was the establish-ent of the Flaming Chalice as the iture symbol of Unitarianism. To lustrate this, we had the Rev. Shir-ell Price's working model of the laming Chalice, a calypso group Dudley Richards and his Flaming halicers" and a daily bulletin of ue conference also called "The laming Chalice."

During the week we had four ex-ellent theme addresses from minent Unitarians. These addresses ere discussed by the various pro-ect groups in the morning and heir thoughts brought to a panel iscussion at night. These discus-ons at times became somewhat rotracted, as most Unitarians have ome hobby horse they want to put ver. However, one chairman eemed to find the answer; he randished a stout cudgel which he nocked on the table at the end of ne minute to signify that that erson's time was up!

Each person above the age of 13 as involved in one of six project roups, designed to tackle all the urrent main problems of Uni-arianism. At the end of the week ach group gave their report on the iscussions which had taken place nd their recommendations for the uture. Their reports have been uplicated and are to be sent to all hurches.

The talking, however, was not onfined to set group discussions lone, many were the bull sessions vhich started at suppertime and went on till early morning. In fact, the week could be described as talk, more talk and even more talk.

Principal L. A. Garrard, of Manchester College, Oxford, in the headdress of honorary chief of the Chickasaw Nation, into which office he was installed earlier this year.

But, we had our relaxation too, which was all the more enjoyable for being well earned. Every evening we had a short social which was followed by a candlelight procession to the chapel for a service. The last evening the service was held round a bonfire and this was followed by a sing-song round the same bonfire to round off what had been a truly inspiring week. A week notable for the atmosphere which prevailed throughout the conference, brought on by everyone putting their heart and soul into making the week a success.

The following chorus from the "Hucklow Calypso" as sung by our Calypso group very well expresses my feelings of the week.

"Come to Hucklow. Come to Hucklow,
Bring your children and your wife.
Come to Hucklow. Come to Hucklow,
For the time of your life."

THE LINDSEY PRESS

THE STORY OF ESSEX HALL

by **Mortimer Rowe, B.A., D.D.**
With 19 illustrations.
Paper covers 6/- (by post 6/6).
Cloth boards 7/6 (by post 8/1).
The history of Essex Hall has hitherto been recorded only in fragments . . . but is now presented in the form of a coherent and continuous narrative . . .

MASS COMMUNICATIONS AND THE SPIRIT OF MAN

by **C. O. Rhodes, M.A.**
(Essex Hall Lecture, 1959).
2/- (by post 2/2).

The Lindsey Press, Essex Hall, 1-6, Essex Street, Strand, London, W.C.2.

RECOMMENDED

"Unitarianism: some questions answered," the latest publication of the Lindsey Press, price sixpence. Have several in the house. This is an excellent hand-out for those friends who ask you what Unitarianism is as they are on the doorstep at midnight. Nineteen good questions well answered, and reference to Unitarian Persons, Hymns and Prayers. The whole leads up the "standard" books by Hall, Holt, Tarrant and Hewett.

UNITARIANS IN THE NEWS

The London "Evening News" of September 17th carried the following paragraph at the top of its front page:

"A special Grand Jury ruled that Pennsylvania Schools were violating the constitution by ordering compulsory prayers and bible readings in schools. The decision arose from an action brought by Unitarians."

Dr. John McLachlan, Belfast, Regional Officer of the United Nations Association, is acting as co-ordinator between Ulster committees being established in connection with the World Refugee Year.

NEWS AND VIEWS

OVERSEAS CHURCHES

A correction for the Auckland News and Views extract printed in our last issue. The congregation at St. Marks, Edinburgh, on the day it was visited by New Zealand friends numbered 68, not including the Sunday School.

The Unitarian Service Committee of Canada began its Annual Campaign in September with a supporting introduction by the Prime Minister, Mr. Diefenbaker.

HOME CHURCHES

Considerable preparation lies behind the Advance Campaign which began at the end of September in BRISTOL. Amongst the methods of publicising the three Unitarian Churches there will be a series of posters displayed in twenty-five buses on popular routes. Attractive pamphlets introduce and describe the churches and advertise the special meetings and services that will take place between September and Christmas.

On September 19th, the Rev. Frank Walker, B.A., was inducted to the ministry of HALIFAX and HUDDERSFIELD.

The MILL HILL Refugee Fund has so far raised £27 and other activities are planned which will raise the total even more.

The Birmingham District Women's League held its autumn Meeting at Lodge Road Church, WEST BROMWICH, on October 3rd. The speaker was Miss M. K. Garry, B.A. The collection was for the India Fund.

After being closed for extensive pairs and renovations the LYE APEL was filled to capacity at the -opening service in September. The ngregation included the Mayor id Mayoress of Stourbridge, mem- rs of the Borough Council, Mr. nilip J. Spencer (President of the idland Union) and representatives om congregations in the Midland nion and other denominations.

On September 26th, the annual rvice of affirmation of the North id East Lancashire Unitarian and ee Christian Lay Preachers' Asso- ation was held at Bethlehem nitarian Church, NEWCHURCH-IN- OSSENDALE when Councillor G. E. ilbert (Astley) installed Councillor rs. F. M. Proctor, who is President the Church, as President of the ssociation. This is the seventh rvice of Affirmation to be held by e Association. It is the only one ld by any of the Lay Preachers' sociations of the Unitarian and ee Christian denomination, and is ld at different churches each ar.

Miss Margaret Stevenson, National esident of the Women's League, sited SOUTHPORT Women's League October.

The SCOTTISH UNITARIAN ASSOCIA- ON has begun its own national ivertising campaign with advertise- ents in two Scottish newspapers. here has been an immediate sponse.

Twenty-five young people from erdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh and wcastle spent a week-end course EDINBURGH at the end of Septem- r considering what the young itarian can say to his non- itarian friends about his religion. The Young People's League at TEACRE has been welcomed as a anch of the National Unitarian P.L. The Sunday School Mother's ub continues to hold interesting etings.

The EAST CHESHIRE UNION will ld its Centenary Meeting at kinfield on Saturday, November 14th. A history of the E.C.U. written by Principal Kenworthy, will shortly be available, price 1s. 9d.

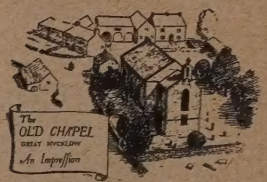
The Forward Movement in BOLTON began in September with a very successful Open-Air Service at Moss Bank Park. Special services and events will take place at Bank Street Chapel, Unity Church, and Halliwell Road, between now and next April.

The Hinckley Great Meeting Social Committee held their second Annual Flower Show on September 19th. Exhibits were of the highest standard; for the ladies a special section for cakes and jams was a highlight. A new venture was the snapshot section which brought in quite a number of interesting snaps, both black and white and coloured.

The Rev. H. L. Short, M.A., of Manchester College, Oxford spoke on "The next Stage in Unitarian Theology" at the opening proceedings of the Unitarian College, Manchester, on October 7th.

CROSS STREET CHAPEL, Manchester, first used its chapel as a hall for a social event on Saturday, October

Northern S.S. Federation
UNITARIAN HOLIDAY HOMES



GREAT HUCKLOW, BUXTON
DERBYSHIRE

No increase in charges. All three Homes will be ready to welcome you. Early booking desirable.

10th, when a "House-warming" and re-union was held. Guests were received by the Chairman and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. H. Hewerdine.

The preacher at DITCHLING on the first Sunday in November will be Mrs. Mary Stocks, B.Sc., LL.D., Litt.D., J.P., former Principal of Westfield College, a member of the B.B.C. General Advisory Council, playwright, and author of the "Life of Eleanor Rathbone."

Members of the COVENTRY congregation visited the new City Police Headquarters in October.

In supporting the recent G.A. resolutions the Western Union Committee suggests that where congregations or joint Pastorates cannot provide the G.A. scale, they should freely agree to the Minister taking up part-time work if he wishes to do so.

Special grants from the Manchester District Association will enable all Churches who wish to do so to raise the stipends of their ministers to the minimum £500.

The service at BATH on October 18th took the form of an animal welfare service, with the theme reverence for life. Mrs. S. Spence recited animal poems, and a lesson was read by the Chairman of the Bath and District Branch of the R.S.P.C.A.

Among the highlights of the Centenary Celebrations held at the HAMILTON ROAD Free Christian Unitarian, and Domestic Mission were: Sunday, October 11th, the Rev. Arthur Vallance, B.A., President of the General Assembly was the preacher; on Wednesday October 14th, a public meeting was addressed by the Rev. Lawrence Redfern, M.A., B.D., supported by the Rev. Brian Golland, M.A., who was the Missionary from 1950 to 1956, and others, on Sunday, October 18th, the service which the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Alderman H. N. Bewley, C.B.E., attended, was conducted by the Rev. C. A. Piper. A special article on the Mission will appear in the next issue of the *Unitarian*.

THE INQUIRER

The weekly organ of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Every Saturday, Price 3½d.

Obtainable from Newsagents, Bookstalls, or your Church.

By subscription, £1 3s. 10d. per annum from "The Inquirer" Office, 14, Gordon Square, W.C.1.

THE UNITARIAN, published by Manchester District Association of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. Annual subscription 4/-. Monthly orders, 50 copies 7/6, 100 copies 10/6 plus postage *Business Manager:* G. HARRISON, 2, Walwyn Close, Stretford, M/Cr. *Editor:* Rev. PETER B. GODFREY, 25, Park Avenue, Swinton, Manchester.

THE MANCHESTER CREMATORIUM Ltd.

BARLOW MOOR ROAD, CHORLTON-CUM-HARDY

(Chorlton 3499)

The Books of Remembrance are on view and the Garden of Rest is open daily for visitors to bring flowers and sit awhile in the peace and tranquillity of this hallowed place.

For advice on cremation and the special remembrance services please write to the

MANCHESTER, CREMATORIUM LTD., 2, COOPER STREET, MANCHESTER, 2.

(Central 4596).

Printed by Nuneaton Newspapers, Bond Gate, Nuneaton